Defending the Homestead or Home Beyond the Usual

History has always fascinated me. Once you get past all the dates and names, history teaches us invaluable lessons. Take the ancient and old time battle methods and strategies – Shrink them to fit your home or homestead, add some inventiveness, a touch of "MacGyverism" and to spice things up a bit, toss in a pinch of historical military tactical fortification and defense strategies; stir it all together with some knowledge and *Voila*! – Cheap, affordable home defense strategies.

Remember the Supreme Court has already ruled that police have a duty to the community at large, not to any one individual.

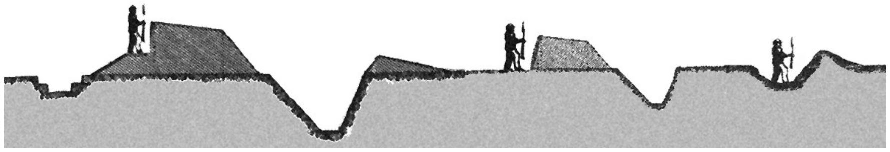
This document is *not* about all the common sense things to protect your home from a criminal. That information you can get anywhere, anytime. This document goes a bit farther, how far depends on you, your finances, ingenuity and your tenacity to achieve them. It's about how to use old history books, far more readily available online for free from archive websites and tweaking them to work for you; all without drawing undue attention to the fact that you feel the need to do this.

"To be prepared is to anticipate risk and to prudently act toward prevention."
Wes Fessler

Brief History of Military Fortifications

The Iroquois were known to build double-walled "palisaded" villages, some 1300–1500 of them. These palisades were larger in size and well fortified, situated on easily defended terrain. The palisade lines were placed in circular or oval-shaped patterns around the village. Some sites possessed triple-walled palisades and even a four-line palisade has been documented. The additional lines provided extra thickness and strength to the defensive wall. In the case of the Burke site, the four palisade lines represent two distinct double-walled palisades. Two double-walled palisades are a substantial defensive improvement that requires a significant amount of human energy and time to construct. The basic concept of a palisade is economically workable today.

Did you know that in the Civil War trenches and bunkers were key battlefield fortifications? There were four basic styles that were used during the Civil War. These usually were to protect the perimeter of the encampment or fort, etc.



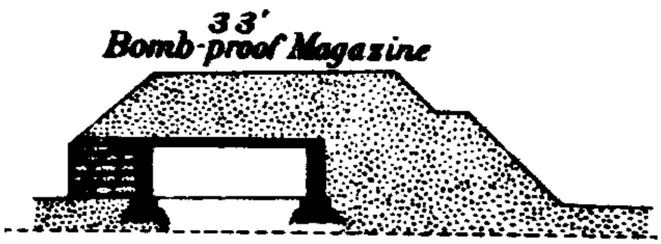
These were called KOCOA's for "**K**ey Terrain; **O**bservation and Field of Fire; **C**over and Concealment; **O**bstacles; **A**venues of Approach and Withdrawal" and these principles applied as much in 1864 to the sitting of field fortifications as today.

The large prepared-in-advance fortification at the far left (Class 1 or 2) dwarfs the rapid exterior-ditched infantry work center and the rear ditched rifle trench at right (Class 4). Obstacles such a felled trees, palisades, or entanglements were typically placed 50-100 yards in front of the earthwork to delay and break up an attack.

Additional entrenchments of the day were:

Class 5: Communication and Supply. These were usually covered and zigzagged trenches, often made of various holes or bunkers for storage of supplies.

Class 6: Internal Works Entrenchments. These included magazines, bombproofs, bunkers, traverses associated with enclosed or semi enclosed artillery fortifications and were usually inside the fort.



Class 7: The Personal Field Shelter. Includes: discrete fox holes, picket or skirmish holes, command holes, slit trenches, "rifle pits". They were typically discontinuous, arrayed in pattern of unit, shelters 1-3 persons, slit trenches shelter 4-10 persons and were known as picket or skirmish lines, holes associated with rapid entrenchments.

Class 8: Defense of Convenience. This was whatever was handy to offer cover, pre-existing features adapted to combat or constructed ad hoc. Examples: stone walls, piled stone breastworks, sunken roads, railroad cuts/fills, wood piles, often enhanced by digging.



See "Civil War fortifications", a handout by cwfsg.org.

Below is a planning diagram of a minimal fortification from one of today's "modern" military manuals.

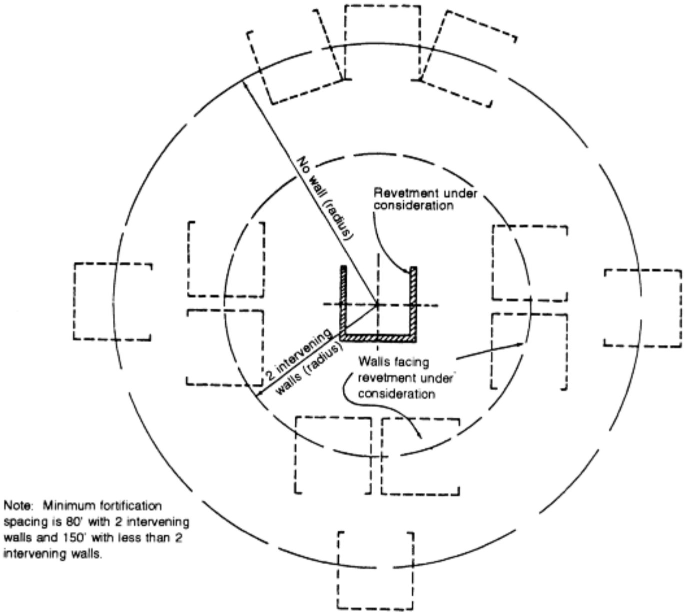


Figure 14-7. Orientation of fortifications to provide safe distances

More current fortification techniques can found in the Army's FM5-15 manual and other like documents available at [SurvivalBlog.com]() in PDF format.

The Italian town of Lucca, in Tuscany, first surrounded itself with a protective wall during the Roman era. It built an even more imposing wall during the 16th and 17th centuries to guard against an anticipated attack from the neighboring Florentines. But the attack never came and the wall remained almost perfectly intact.



In the 19th century the top of the wide Lucca Wall was planted with trees and grass and turned into a circular park, which today remains one of the great public spaces in the world.



Think about it. Create these types of earthworks, etc around your inner homestead compound or an Iroquois palisade around your house. You can even make these complete circles around the exterior of your compound so you can move relatively safely from one location to another within the trench. Go ahead and add some low growing shrubs or ground cover so they don't look like trenches and add felled trees or fences as obstacles in front of them. In a time of crisis you have a 50-50 chance to be able to cut this brush back and end up with a completely unobstructed view.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."
Ben Franklin

Home/Homestead Fortifications

If you are wondering what the hell fortification techniques have to do with your homestead, listen up – one of the keys to homestead or home defense is to ***define your perimeters, plan strategic defenses and then implement them*** - *obsessively*. I don't care if you are urban, suburban or rural this is a second to none requirement to defend your home or homestead.

A great piece of homestead defense literature that I think everyone should read is the "Defensive Living Manifesto" by Dr. Martin Wooton. I originally found this at http://defensiveliving.blogspot.com/p/defensive-living-manifesto.html and although it is predominately for urban and suburban environments, it is more than worth the effort to search for and download it! His paper covers what he calls the Three Basic Components for Secure and Safe Living; ***"The experience of secure and safe living is a result of three basic components: 1) personal conviction, 2) educated preparation, and 3) determined implementation."***

A while back, one inner city friend lived in an area that was a neighborhood "in transition" and there were often bad guy gun battles on the street corner by her house. One evening she had a bullet come through her outer wall and embed itself in the inner dining room wall while she was eating diner. She went and had her home encased in 1" plywood and 18" thick straw bales and then plastered over them – a modern day palisade, just like the Iroquois. When others asked what she was doing she said this was cheaper than installing more insulation to reduce her energy bills. That wasn't a complete lie, but it effectively covered her main reason for doing so. Since her home was re-enforced and re-insulated and although the gun battles have long since died down, this did protect her from other "stray" bullets that occurred before the citizens took the neighborhood back. She has also been reaping the rewards of much cheaper heating and cooling costs to boot.

The Perimeter Defense

Historically, just about every battle required planning, training, preparation and implementation of the plan, which almost always included perimeter defenses. Your home or homestead is no different.

Today many states have documents concerning Rural Crime, Security Landscaping and all the various "prevention" tools and advice available. An excellent article on this is offered by the agri.wa.GOV website in PDF format and is called "General Farm Security Rural Crime Prevention". It states that "*The boundary is the property owner's primary line of defense. The stronger and more noticeable it is, the greater the probability of deterring a thief.*" and that "*Outlying areas are more difficult to secure. There are some things you can do to protect property in remote parts of your farm.*" The paper goes on to offer specifics to protect the land, livestock and family of the farm.

At www.OutsmartingCrime.com I found an article (also downloadable in PDF) called "Guide to Home Safety and Security", which is perfect for the urban and suburbanite. Just read past the sales pitches for their alarm products and zero in on the tips on locks and other protection options.

Remember in any area, even urban, you can purchase wireless driveway alarms much cheaper than any alarm system. Plus in way too many cities, alarm systems with "monitoring" staff not only cost extra, they often do not stop the robbery. By the time they alert you or the police, the thief has been, taken and gone. I use the driveway alarms around the outside perimeter of my city home; this is to alert me

and has proven to be more beneficial than my neighbors "monitored" alarm system. CheaperThanDirt.com also has similar inexpensive devices.

To make a fortification mound to provide you and provide a protected defensive position, you can stack "earth bags", sandbags or filled metal drums, etc. in various configurations. Once this foundation to the mound is complete and before backfill, a "bituminous" coating (similar to that which seals concrete or cinder blocks from moisture) can be sprayed over the structure to limit water penetration if that is needed. Backfill material should be dry and hard packed accordingly. Then cover with dirt and plants to disguise the purpose of the entrenchment mound as part of your landscaping.

Traditionally most secured areas are made up of two main perimeters: Outer and Inner. You don't want an intrusion in either perimeter, however outside of the battle field the outer perimeter is not normally met with deadly force. Consider the urban home and you spot a stranger on your front yard or driveway – you call the police or yell to them that you have called the police. This is appropriate and not deadly force.

If you are a city dweller and are in a semi-detached or detached single family home you can still employ some entrenchment techniques. They may not be large or massive, but they can still provide you with perimeter boundaries for protection and defense. Especially coupled with other lighting, landscaping and alarm techniques. Just keep in mind, no matter where you live, that ***alarms and lighting should be independent of the grid whenever possible and preferable wireless***.

If you live in a rural environment and you are in an outer field or pasture and see someone on your property, then whip out the cell phone, call the sheriff. If you sense this person is dangerous, hide and monitor their movements and actions. If you don't sense immediate danger (and you trust your judgment) then arm yourself and yell to them that you have called the sheriff. Just seeing your firearm will tell this intruder that you WILL defend yourself with it if necessary.

I have one homesteading friend that has quite a few of these backfilled fortified entrenchments for his perimeter defenses and for hidden fuel storage. This fuel storage "bunker" vents downhill to a blind spot on his outer compound. Add in some wireless solar alarms and this makes that area very dangerous to someone approaching with bad intent.

In any case, deadly force is not your primary defense action in an outer perimeter scenario and most often will not be needed.

Exterior lighting, wireless alarms, appropriate thorny landscaping and the like are great for both inner and outer perimeter defenses when done properly. (Please see "Urban Suburban Rural Security Landscaping and Lighting" available on scridb.com.) When coupled with various entrenchment methods, these will assist you when you have minimal personnel to adequately guard or arm either perimeter. This type of lighting and landscaping act as "Alert Dogs" and buy you the time you need to arm, fortify and make the plan to fight for the security of your

inner perimeter. It may just be seconds, but every second counts and could be the difference between life and death.

If you are walking "sentry", checking fence or just want to know if something or someone has crossed a perimeter line, try the Party Popper Tripwire Alarm. Yep it is just what it sounds like but it is effective and cheap. It won't stop anyone, but if you are nearby you will hear it and it will startle the daylights out of the person or animal that trips it. You should be able to download the PDF from scribd.com after searching for "The Poor Man's Perimeter Security System".

The inner perimeter is your last stand. Things reach critical mass when there is an invasion of your inner perimeter. This is where your most precious items are, from your family to your possessions. Your inner perimeter is your first priority. The outer perimeter supports the fortification of the inner perimeter.

Create a safe room. This is a room with fortified walls and doors. This can be accomplished by using plywood instead of sheetrock and solid core doors instead of the usual hollow interior doors. Or you can build yourself a hidden room or cellar, much like the pioneers and prohibition "speakeasies" did to protect themselves from raids. Create window shutters with slats for sighting. These can be indoor or outside. But be sure they can be quickly and easily closed.

This is where all those common "protect your house from burglars" strategies come into play – door and window locks, etc. This is also the place where deadly force may be needed. It is very hard to avoid an intruder once they are inside your home. Be sure you have trained, practiced and are prepared mentally for this type of defense.

Dogs and Defense

Dogs are great for home and homestead defense. There are different kinds of dogs for this and depending on where you live you may need one particular kind or multiple kinds.

Alert or Watch Dogs are dogs that hear everything and anything and bark or alert you in some way. He may be large or small; but if he hears everything, hates strangers or shivers when they are around, then you have an alert dog. You do not however want an animal that is shivering ALL the time; you need the Dog Whisperer for an animal like that. Also, if the SHTF, a small and or scared dog will be of no use to you. Of course you don't really want an Alert dog that keeps barking when ANY person just knocks on your door either.

The other type of dog is the **Protection Dog**. This is an animal that is better suited to protect you when things get close and personal. This dog will be an asset to the situation at hand, it will help you and these animals are usually of the larger breeds. They need to be, to be effective protection dogs. These dogs are usually German Shepherds, Rottweilers, Boxers, Pit Bulls and the like. They can and will inflict some major damage to the intruder and it's the nature of these breeds to be this way.

You may get lucky and run across a dog that will work well in both scenarios. If you are lucky enough to find this type of animal - All power to you!

I once owned a lab and a retriever, both friendly kid type dogs. Yet they were both very protective and territorial. When two intruders came into our back yard they “tag teamed” them, tore their cloths and bit them, just to keep them away from my young children and alert me to the crisis.

One of these animals was a bit “odd” in that she would let a stranger come in the house and more or less ignore them unless they made a move against one of us or in one case – we were not home and the intruder went to leave. A thief had broken in and was stuffing pillow cases with goodies and she just ignored him, so the male lab did the same. But when the thief went to leave, she became aggressive which alerted the male lab so he joined her. We came home from church to this thief sitting on our sofa with three stuffed pillow cases. If he so much as twitched, the dogs were ready to pounce. Labs and retrievers are a bit scary looking with their ruffs up while they drool and snarl.

So don’t overlook dogs just because of their breed, if you are dealing with a reliable breeder or trainer you could find animals like my lab and retriever.

If you live in a rural environment and have an acre or more, you will probably need **Working Dogs** too. These animals often make not only good Alert dogs, but Protection dogs as well, depending on the breed. They are often extremely loyal and territorial to boot.

A friend of mine, in the very rural west, has a pack of working dogs that guard his sheep and cattle. They even ward off wolves, coyote, bears and cougars. When a group of “truck rustlers” attempted to rustle some cattle; one came and got him while two attacked the rustlers and the remaining three kind of stampeded the steer.

Never underestimate an animal that is devoted to you, your family and your livestock. But they do need to be raised right, socialized correctly and trained properly, so ***don’t forget to set the “Rules, Boundaries and Limitations”*** as the Dog Whisper so fondly stresses.

Define the type of requirements of the dogs you need, explore the breeds best suited to those requirements and then get an animal to meet those requirements from a professional. Do not attempt to get such an animal from a “puppy farm” or even a mall pet store. This does not mean you need an expensive pure breed with papers; mutts often are more dedicated and loyal. However you will usually get what you pay for.

“It is a wise man who, in quiet times,
keeps his knives sharp and ready”
Lao Tzu

Personal Defense

I have mentioned personal defense in previous letters and feel I must stress this again: ***Personal Defense is a Personal Choice.*** Each person will have a different set of needs, handicaps and requirements. I am not a personal defense expert. I only know what has worked and not worked over the years for me and mine only! So do some research, be honest with yourself and your family and select the personal defense tools and strategies that work best for YOU. No document or lesson or two can do this for you. You need to get out there to learn and practice your choice(s) constantly from now to the end of time.

Jeff Quinn of EndTimesReport.com says that *"Personal Defense is not the same as Home Defense." "Personal Defense is always having the means to defend yourself available at all times."* This is a very true and an important point to make. For details on choosing good personal and home defense weapons, search for "Defend the Homestead" by Jeff Quinn and available in PDF.

There are many methods of personal defense. There are all the martial arts and hand to hand combat stuff. There are weapons of convenience like bats and crowbars and there are knives and firearms and often forgotten, but in my book leading the pack, is ***awareness and honesty***. If you are aware of what is going on around you, you can either avoid most nasty situations or be prepared to adequately defend yourself long enough to get out of them.

Some of the personal defense methods require years of training and special "permits", others do not. However, all of these methods do require some kind of training and ***continual*** practice to be effective. You cannot just take a lesson or class or two and then never practice. Filleting that fish or carving the turkey is not the same as using a knife to defend yourself against an attacker. Owning a firearm without not only knowing how it works, but having constantly practiced to be accurate with it, will not work either. Having taken a year or two of karate will not save you. ***Without BOTH training and constant practice or drills, you don't have a rat's chance in hell of fending off an attacker!***

In another quote of importance from Jeff Quinn: "We are no longer naive. We will need to defend our homes, indeed our very lives, from now into the future. Only call 911 for an antidote for poison. The status quo is that the bad guys are there and gone before the police can even respond. All they can do is take information for the next of kin. Besides, the Supreme Court has already ruled that police have a duty to the community at large, *not* to any one individual. That's right - the police have "No Affirmative Duty to Protect" us, (http://www.endtimesreport.com/NO_AFFIRMATIVE_DUTY.htm) affirmed by many court decisions! When your home experiences a "home invasion," try defending yourself with your kid's baseball bat against bad guys armed with AK-47's."

I am not particularly an advocate of deadly force; however, I am a firm believer in ***every citizen having the right to arm and defend themselves as each sees fit and that carries with it a great responsibility that cannot be ignored.*** I own three types of firearms. I have a hand gun for close quarters or inside my inner perimeter; a shotgun for close and mid-range defense and a rifle for any long range or outer perimeter defense that may be necessary. I want to stress here that these are ***for defense from four, as well as, two legged intruders.*** (Yes I also

hunt, but we are not discussing hunting for food here.) I have taken all of the appropriate firearm safety courses, practice *regularly* with each and keep them well cleaned and cared for.

If someone has a gun and is trying to kill you, it would be reasonable to shoot back with your own gun.
Dalai Lama

Legal Protection

If you are an "activist" on today's Civil Disobedience War front, here are some key pieces of protection actions you should take.

Knowledge is power**: Be aware of the laws, your rights and privileges under the U.S. and State and be adamant about them.** Since the government is not stupid and is well aware of this, they tend to watch themselves when dealing with people who know their rights because they know that us, knowledgeable citizens will have them dead to rights if they slip.

Next, if you deal in even slightly controversial activities and or information, **take precautions to secure the information in your PC.** Encryption and firewalls are a definite must, as well as any other tricks to hide data on your PC and prevent tampering or hacking. I have read that it is best to avoid DES as it was developed for the government and was not recertified by the NSA. Several sources indicated that one of the best encryption systems for personal use is the "Absolute Computer Security System" scheme by Consumertronics. I'm a lay person so please contact a professional if this is a necessity for you.

Another thing to do is use plenty of subdirectories and plant some "fake" information so if anyone looks around they will get excited and side tracked by nonsense info.

It would probably be best to keep all truly vital information on floppy disks, CD's and or USB portable drives that you can safely keep hidden under lock and key.

Never discuss or email "touchy" information. Be aware of your surroundings and if necessary come up with some kind of code you can use for any "open" communications between family and friends that may be needed.

Always be alert to any "strange", peculiar activity or people around your house, neighborhood or place of business - Call the police or your sheriff immediately. This can be anything from walking or driving by slowly and staring or taking pictures to parking just down the street from your home. Let law enforcement know you think your street or house if being "cased" by potential thieves or the like.

If strangers actually come on your property, warn them this is private property, call the police and tell them you have called the police and will press trespassing charges to have them arrested. Then call a friend or co-worker and whip out your cell phone and start taking pictures and video while you tell this friend what is going on.

If these “strangers” question you, ask for their ID and tell them you will verify it; close the door on them and do so. Call whatever authority is on the ID, have a tape recorder handy and record the conversation. Then politely refuse the strangers questions and tell them to talk to the police or your lawyer, depending on the situation.

Be firm and do not back down, but always be polite. If they persist to ask questions, let them know you will also press charges of harassment if they do not cease and desist. If these “trespassers” are engaging in unconstitutional governmental or otherwise activity, this will usually get them to back off big time since they don’t want anyone to have proof of what they are doing. Especially if you are videoing them and have a friend or neighbor handy or on the phone during the process.

If someone calls you and is asking inappropriate questions or is harassing you, click on your tape recorder and politely refuse to answer any questions. If the person seems “official” tell them to call your lawyer, say you are hanging up, then say good bye and hang up. Immediately call and report this to your attorney, the phone company (just tell the phone company you just got an obscene call) and the police if the person would not identify themselves or were not law enforcement. Let your attorney know you have a recording of the phone conversation and leave it to him if he wants to let the police and phone company know you have this.

To quote Thomas Icon: “If government agents come with a warrant call your lawyer and document *everything*. Actions they commit on the search warrant may screw them later, but you'll need evidence. Videotape them if it's feasible, and if you have a friend in the press call him/her. Above all invoke your right to remain silent, and don't help them by opening your mouth.”

“To be idle is a short road to death and to be diligent is a way of life;
foolish people are idle, wise people are diligent.”
Buddha

Ok folks that’s it. Hopefully this document has warmed up your brain cells and you have found your “inner MacGyver”. Start looking at some archived old military documents, use your head and modify them to work for your homestead and family and go have at it!

From a 50 Something, soon to be rural homesteading, Prepper ;-}